The offer for talks have been made by the Government in view of its commitment of resolve all issues through negotiations. The Government are firmly of the view that violence has no place in a democratic polity and the people by and large want peace and an end to violence.

Pre-1953 status for J&K

†3413. SHRI BALWANTSINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Advani's remark on pre-1953 status of J&K hailed published in the 'Daily Observer dated 8th April, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government has expressed its consent to consider the offer regarding status of Jammu & Kashmir as in 1953;

(c) if so when; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir have endorsed the recommendations of the State Autonomy Committee set up by the State Government, which basically speaks of going back to pre- 1953 status. Government of India has decided to set up a Committee of secretaries to comprehensively examine the report.

College girl raped in Bihar

3414. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government are aware of the news-item titled She celebrated Women's day, then died of gangrape as appeared in the "Indian Express' dated 15th March, 2000;

(b)whether the number of rape cases in Bihar State has zoomed up from 1034 in 1995 to 2010 in 1999;

(c)if so, the action taken in this regard;

(d)whether the collage girl was gangraped on 11th March, 2000 in the locality barely three days after she had participated in a rally held by her collage to observe International Women's Day; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.